

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, April 6, 2009
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room A

The following members were present:

Alex Berger	Rosemary Hardy
Ira Berkowitz	Jessie Hoagland
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Judy Goodman	Mark Winings

Excused/Absent

Dick Hyde
Robert Kerr
Omri Praiss

Also present:

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were adopted with a correction made to the date. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Nomination of Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman

Mr. Schneider made a motion to nominate Ms. Deem as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Berger seconded the motion. All were in favor of the nomination. The recommendation will be discussed at the next BOA meeting.

Director's Report

Ms. DeForrest discussed the smoking ban. She noted that it is very limited in parks. In the state of California they prohibit smoking within 25 feet of a playground. In Tacoma, Washington they are looking at the possibility of developing a smoking ban in parks. Further, Ms DeForrest discussed the issue with Missouri Parks and Recreation Directors at the MPRA conference. These directors noted that no bans are currently in place at their parks. Many people who visit parks on an on-going basis are respectful of park land and 95% of them typically do not smoke in parks. Our events are not smoke free.

Ms. Ucinski will prepare a written report about smoking in parks. Mr. Berkowitz asked what our level of authority was in setting policies and procedures about things such as smoking in parks. These types of recommendations can be made by the Commission and are sent to the BOA for approval. Even if legislation is passed to ban smoking in parks it is difficult to enforce, especially since the City of Clayton does not have a park ranger.

Ms. DeForrest provided a financial report for the Commission. She noted that the ice rink did exceed revenue projections and stated that a full report on the rink will be discussed at the next meeting.

We are hosting an Earth Day Celebration event in Shaw Park on April 18 from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

The Oak Knoll bid specs on pervious concrete for trail replacement are being completed and will go out to bid soon. The plan is to do the work this summer.

Ms. DeForrest invited Commission members to participate in our Youth Sports Focus Group being conducted by our Athletic and Facilities department. Detailed information will be distributed to the Commission before the next meeting. The Commission members stated that they definitely want to give Mr. Noelken, Athletic and Facilities Supervisor, support.

Signage Design

Ms. DeForrest showed pictures of the new versions of the Shaw Park monument signs. A sign will be placed the south and north side of the park. The signs will be identical to each other. It was noted that the red brick version looks so much more appealing than the original sign options.

The Commission members would like to make a recommendation about this sign design because all of them really like it and think it is very professional looking. Ms. Goodman stated that the signs are very substantial and mark the park very well. Ms. DeForrest let them know that there is \$56,000 left in the

budget for this project. There will be lighting in the ground for these signs so they are very visible in the evening. The signs are set on concrete pads and have landscaping around them. Very little maintenance is needed for these types of signs. What we have to do before a final recommendation is made is to go out to bid on the signage designs and installation.

Master Plan Review / Projects

All projects in the Master Plan will be reviewed and evaluated using the matrix. This process will be helpful for the budget process this year. Ms. DeForrest had an explanation of the process on the projector screen so the details were clearer for everyone. The review process will allow us to track progress, is color coded to show importance and to show which park the project will be completed in. The projects at the top are slated for completion this year. For example, if the BOA designated \$500,000 to do projects next year we would have to decide which of the projects of the top we would do next. A few changes were made to the matrix. Completed projects were moved to their own sheet. We eliminated some of the columns. Further, the long term projects were removed from the list because they were more general in nature and not a specific measurable project.

Staff looked at the projects and completed the rankings. The scores were calculated once and then they were scored again to see if original scores held up. The scores are not intended to be binding. It is a tool to help staff see higher percentages at the top, what grants to apply for and to know what grants are available. Mr. Berger stated that this process helps us transition away from the more subjective approach. The review process is in its infancy, we will build on it and this is a huge step for us. The next step is to work on another matrix related to maintenance projects. It will be useful to have one document to show everything in the Master Plan. Ms. Goodman stated that this transition gives us the opportunity to show potential sponsors the areas where we need sources of funding. It gives us a guide, a road map, we never had before.

Ms. DeForrest said we are due to go out for a large grant which is very likely going to be for an inclusion playground in the fall.

The Shade Structure project is 20% completed. The bids are at the City Manager's office; the bids came back \$18,000 under budget.

Ms. Goodman said that the Century Foundation is waiting to come out of the gate because the foundation wants to make sure they are very professional and very strategic. They are in the process of developing a logo with a consultant. The foundation will be working on projects that people in the Clayton community care about.

Community survey information will be available at the next meeting. The information will also be presented at the next BOA meeting.

Old Business / New Business

Ms. Hardy reported to the Commission that the Clayton Academy moved out of the old Maryland school building. The playground equipment at the school was completely dug out and is in storage. The academy owned the equipment and had it torn out on their own, much to the surprise of everyone. This was the only playground equipment in this neighborhood. People are very upset and want to meet with the City and the Clayton School District to talk about it.

Ms. DeForrest noted that the lease is up between the Clayton Child Center at Oak Knoll and the City of Clayton. It is very likely that this contract will be renewed; although meetings with Barb Geno have not begun. A building assessment is being considered.

Commission members suggested that we have an interactive assessment of parks. This would allow everyone in the community to feel part of the process of evaluating our parks. Our rating form could potentially be put on our website.

Respectfully submitted by:
Denise Ucinski